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PATENT  
Serial No. 09/954,507

JRW



## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Richard A. Howes et al.  
 Serial No.: 09/954,507  
 Filing Date: September 12, 2001  
 Group Art Unit: 2666  
 Examiner: Inder P. Mehra  
 Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MAINTAINING CONNECTION STATE BETWEEN CONNECTION MANAGER AND A FAILOVER DEVICE

**MAIL STOP AMENDMENT**

Honorable Commissioner  
 for Patents  
 P.O. Box 1450  
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated below and is addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

*Willie Jiles*

Name

*February 28, 2005*

Date of Signature

Express Mail No. EV 323318841 US

**RESPONSE PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**

In response to the Office Action mailed November 30, 2004, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the rejection of the claims in view of the following Amendments thereto, and the comments as set forth below. Please amend the Application as follows.